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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,538	10/01/2003	Makoto Kaneko	030673-170	5350
21839	7590	02/22/2005	EXAMINER	
BURNS DOANE SWECKER & MATHIS L L P POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404				DESTA, ELIAS
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2857

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/674,538	KANEKO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Elias Desta	2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2003.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

Detailed Action

Drawing

1. The drawing is objected to because of the following minor informalities:

- Fig. 8: Label box 3 as to function. Correction is required.

Abstract

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the following minor informalities. Page 20, lines 8-9: rewrite the phrase starting "... point in line with a target voltage. The adjusted voltage $A_i(t)$ is applied to the band pass filter with a composite sine wave $y(t)$ which includes sine waves of each frequency corresponding to the adjusted voltage $A_i(t)$." Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Specification

3. The specification of the disclosure is objected to because the following minor informalities:

- Page 1,
 - Line 3: "Related Arts", delete the word "up";
 - Lines 3-6: delete the phrase "Per square centimeter and start with "There are approximately 1500 Meissner's tactile corpuscles and 50 Merkel's tactile discs per square centimeter in

the upper part of the skin of a fingertip, and some 75 Pacinian corpuscles and Ruffini endorgans per square centimeter".

Corrections are required.

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim rejection – 35 U.S.C. 112

4. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, because the phrase "the like" renders indefinite where the claim 1 includes elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "or the like"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim 1 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Conclusion

5. Citation of pertinent prior art:

➤ Paradiso et al. (Computer Musical Journal, 'Musical Applications of Electric Field Sensing') teaches a method of capacitive sensing by comparing variable oscillator (whose time constant is set by capacitive

coupling to the external objects) to a fixed reference frequency in proximate sensing applications.

- West et al. (ASME, 'Detection of Real and Virtual Fine Surface Features with a Haptic Interface and Stylus') teaches the method of displaying a fine surface feature using a haptic interface.
- CRC (CRC Publication, 'Chapter 2, Metaphors and Senses') teaches a general idea of metaphors and motivation for using metaphors to divide the design space.
- Ansel et al. (U.S. Patent 5,714,808) teaches a system for supplying at least one electrical apparatus with a touch control.
- Skewis et al. (U.S. Patent 3,736,672) teaches reading machine for the blind.
- Shimoda (U.S. Patent 5,588,839) teaches information processing apparatus.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elias Desta whose telephone number is (571)-272-2214. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thu (8:30-7:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S. Hoff can be reached on (571)-272-2216. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is

assigned are (703)-872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571)-272-1750.

Elias Desta
Examiner
Art Unit 2857

-ed

February 8, 2005

Marc S. Wolff
MARC S. WOLFF
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800